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Kiwanis Club of Aruba has elected its new board of directors for 2023-2024

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More than 30 million U.S. drivers don't know if they're at risk from a rare but dangerous airbag blast

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer
DETROIT (AP) — More than 33 million people in the United States are driving vehicles that contain a potentially deadly threat: Airbag inflators that in rare cases can explode in a collision and spew shrapnel.

Few of them know it.

And because of a dispute between federal safety regulators and an airbag parts manufacturer, they aren't likely to find out anytime soon.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is demanding that the manufacturer, ARC Automotive of Knoxville, Tennessee, recall 67 million inflators that could explode with such force as to blow apart a metal canister and expel shrapnel. But ARC is refusing to do so, setting up a possible court fight with the agency.



Automobile traffic jams Route 93 South, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

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More than 30 million U.S. drivers don't know if they're at risk from a rare but dangerous airbag blast

Continued from Front

NHTSA argues that the recall is justified because two people have been killed in the United States and Canada and at least seven others have been injured by ARC's inflators. The explosions, which first occurred in 2009, have continued as recently as this year.

NHTSA tentatively concluded, after an investigation that has lasted for eight years, that the inflators are defective. The agency's documents show that the inflators date from at least the 2002 model year to January 2018, when ARC installed equipment on its manufacturing lines that could detect potential safety problems.

One of those who died was Marlene Beaudoin, a 40-year-old mother of 10 from Michigan's Upper Peninsula who was struck by metal fragments when her 2015 Chevrolet Traverse SUV was involved in a minor crash in 2021. She and four of her sons had been on their way to get ice cream. The sons were not hurt.

ARC maintains that no safety defect exists, that NHTSA's demand is based on a hypothesis rather than technical conclusions and that the agency has no authority to order a parts manufacturer to carry out recalls, which ARC con-



The ARC Automotive manufacturing plant is seen, July 14, 2015 in Knoxville, Tenn.

Associated Press

tends are the responsibility of automakers.

In a letter to NHTSA, ARC said no automaker has found a defect common to all 67 million inflators, and no root cause has been identified in the inflator ruptures.

"ARC believes they resulted from random 'one-off' manufacturing anomalies that were properly addressed by vehicle manufacturers through lot-specific recalls," the letter said.

In a statement, NHTSA indicated that both ARC and automakers are responsible for recalls and that it can seek a recall from a parts maker that supplies multiple automakers.

The next step is for NHTSA to issue a final ruling on whether the inflators are defective, then hold a public hearing. It potentially could

take ARC to court to seek a recall order. NHTSA would not say when or whether any of this will happen.

In the meantime, owners of vehicles made by at least a dozen automakers — Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Ford, Toyota, Stellantis, Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Porsche, Hyundai and Kia — are left to wonder anxiously whether their vehicles contain driver or front passenger inflators made by ARC. (Some vehicles have ARC inflators on both sides.) Because ARC supplies inflators that are included in other manufacturers' airbags, there's no easy way for vehicle owners to determine whether their inflators are made by ARC. Neither NHTSA nor ARC nor the automakers have released a full list of affected models. The standoff with ARC has

sent automakers struggling to find out just how many of their vehicles contain the inflators. The auto manufacturers are also asking NHTSA whether they must start doing recalls. Automakers know many of the models affected. But many say they're still gathering information from later model years to determine which vehicles contain the affected inflators.

"We are still investigating," said Maria Buczkowski, a spokeswoman for Ford. "We have not had any ARC airbag inflators rupture in the field."

James Bell, a Kia spokesman, said, "We do not have a final count on vehicles that were built with ARC inflators, but the team is collecting the data."

Toyota confirmed that some of its vehicles have ARC inflators but wouldn't comment further.

Other automakers said they were trying to find a cause and were working with the government or didn't respond to requests from The Associated Press for information.

NHTSA contends that by-products from welding during manufacturing can clog a vent inside the inflator canister that's designed to let gas escape to fill air bags quickly in a crash. Pressure can build to the point where the canister is

blown apart.

Michael Brooks, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, called on NHTSA and the automakers to release a list of affected models.

"Customers, I think, have a right to know if there's a potential defect in their car, particularly if it's sitting a few inches from their chest and can explode," Brooks said.

The situation, he said, is reminiscent of the early stages of the Takata air bag inflator recalls in 2001. It took years for all the affected vehicle models to be announced.

Both ARC and Takata used ammonium nitrate to inflate air bags. Takata's situation was more dangerous, Brooks said, because in its inflators, the chemical could deteriorate over time when exposed to high heat and humidity. Unlike Takata, ARC uses ammonium nitrate only as a secondary chemical to inflate air bags. ARC's problem appears to derive instead from a manufacturing defect.

From 2017 to 2022, the ARC problems triggered seven small recalls from automakers. On Friday, the same day NHTSA announced its action against ARC, General Motors announced the recall of nearly 1 million more. □



U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai listens to a reporter's question at a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan Thursday, April 20, 2023, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The

United States has reached a modest trade agree-

ment with Taiwan, signaling Washington's support for the island democracy as it comes under increasing pressure from China.

U.S. inks modest trade deal with Taiwan in show of support

The first agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade is expected to set the stage for a bigger deal later — "a robust and high-standard trade agreement," U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said.

The initiative announced Thursday will, among other things, cut red tape at customs and reduce waiting times for U.S. businesses bringing products to Taiwan. It also commits the U.S. and Taiwan to adopt-

ing measures to combat bribery and other forms of corruption and to encouraging more trade involving small- and medium-sized businesses. The agreement does not require approval from the U.S. Congress. But there is broad bipartisan support in Washington for Taiwan, an island of 23 million that split from China when the communists took over the mainland in 1949 and has since developed into a prosperous democracy. Beijing considers Tai-

wan a renegade Chinese province and has long demanded that it reunify.

Relations between the United States and China — the world's two biggest economies — have deteriorated in recent years. The United States accuses China of predatory economic practices and has criticized Beijing's crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong and Muslim region of Xinjiang and its bullying of neighbors, including Taiwan, over territorial claims. □

Check your artificial intelligence 'bossware' tools for bias, says U.S. agency head

By MATT O'BRIEN

AP Technology Writer

The head of the U.S. agency charged with enforcing civil rights in the workplace says artificial intelligence-driven "bossware" tools that closely track the whereabouts, keystrokes and productivity of workers can also run afoul of discrimination laws.

Charlotte Burrows, chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, told The Associated Press that the agency is trying to educate employers and technology providers about their use of these surveillance tools as well as AI tools that streamline the work of evaluating job prospects.

And if they aren't careful with say, draconian schedule-monitoring algorithms that penalize breaks for pregnant women or Muslims taking time to pray, or allowing faulty software to screen out graduates of women's or historically Black colleges — they can't blame AI when the EEOC comes calling.

"I'm not shy about using

our enforcement authority when it's necessary," Burrows said. "We want to work with employers, but there's certainly no exemption to the civil rights laws because you engage in discrimination some high-tech way."

The federal agency put out its latest set of guidance Thursday on the use of automated systems in employment decisions such as who to hire or promote. It explains how to interpret a key provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 known as Title VII that bars job discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion or sex, which includes bias against gay, lesbian and transgender workers.

Burrows said one important example involves widely-used résumé screeners and whether or not they can produce a biased result if they are based on biased data.

"What will happen is that there's an algorithm that is looking for patterns that reflect patterns that it's already familiar with," she said. "It will be trained on

data that comes from its existing employees. And if you have a non-diverse set of employees currently, you're likely to end up with kicking out people inadvertently who don't look like your current employees."

Amazon, for instance, abandoned its own resume-scanning tool to recruit top talent after finding it favored men for technical roles — in part because it was comparing job candidates against the company's own male-dominated tech workforce.

Other agencies, including the Department of Justice, have been sending similar warnings for the past year, with previous sets of guidance about how some AI tools could discriminate against people with disabilities and violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In some cases, the EEOC has taken action. In March, the operator of tech job-search website Dice.com settled with the agency to end an investigation over allegations it was allowing job posters to exclude workers of U.S. national ori-



The emblem of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is shown on a podium in Vail, Colo., Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016, in Denver.

Associated Press

gin in favor of immigrants seeking work visas. To settle the case, the parent company, DHI Group, agreed to rewrite its programming to "scrape" for discriminatory language such as "H-1Bs Only," a reference to a type of work visa.

Much of the EEOC's work involves investigating the complaints filed by employ-

ees who believe they were discriminated against. And while it's hard for job applicants to know if a biased hiring tool resulted in them being denied a job, Burrows said there is "generally more awareness" among workers about the tools that are increasingly being used to monitor their productivity. □

10K bridges similar to Pittsburgh one that collapsed should be checked



This is a Pittsburgh Transit Authority bus that was on the Fern Hollow Bridge in Pittsburgh when it collapsed in this file photo from Jan. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

By JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

Investigators looking into the collapse of a Pittsburgh bridge want transportation officials nationwide to examine more than 10,000 other bridges with similar construction to ensure they

don't have the same kind of corrosion that was found on the bridge that collapsed.

The National Transportation Safety Board said in a report Thursday that drainage problems on the weathered steel bridge

that failed allowed the metal legs to deteriorate over time. It determined Pennsylvania neglected for years to perform the maintenance needed to clear the debris, dirt and leaves that were causing the problem, even though inspectors noted the issue. Rust that caused the deterioration of the Pittsburgh bridge's steel legs and allowed holes to form in the structure was noted on every inspection done since 2005, including one completed just four months before the Fern Hollow Bridge collapsed on Jan. 28, 2022. Work was done in 2009 to clear the debris clogging the bridge's drainage system, but that wasn't repeated in the years since even after inspectors said in every report between 2011 and 2021 that the drains

had become clogged again.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokeswoman Alexis Campbell said the agency is still reviewing everything the NTSB released Thursday, and the state will continue cooperating with the investigation. Last fall, the state Transportation Department issued a safety bulletin fo-

cused on the maintenance issues with these steel bridges in response to the NTSB's preliminary findings.

"Safe, reliable infrastructure is a top priority of the (Gov. Josh) Shapiro administration, and we are committed to ensuring Pennsylvanians and all motorists can travel across the Commonwealth safely," Campbell said. □




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8-year-old girl dies in Border Patrol custody in Texas

By **VALERIE GONZALEZ**
and **REBECCA SANTANA**
Associated Press

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) — A little girl from Panama born with heart problems died in Border Patrol custody Wednesday, the second death of a child from Latin America in U.S. government custody in two weeks. The 8-year-old girl and her family were being held in Harlingen, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, one of the busiest corridors for migrant crossings.

The Border Patrol's parent agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, has struggled with overcrowding at its facilities, spurred by a large increase in migrants ahead of the expiration last week of a key regulation on immigration linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The girl experienced "a medical emergency" and emergency medical services were called. They took her to the hospital where she was pronounced dead, the agency said. An autopsy has been ordered. The girl's name was Anadith Tanay Reyes Alvarez, said Honduran Consul José Leonardo Navas, who is based in McAllen, Texas. He said she is from Panama, although her parents are from Honduras. The consul



Migrants wait in line adjacent to the border fence under the watch of the Texas National Guard to enter into El Paso, Texas, Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

said she was traveling with her father, mother and two older siblings.

She was born with heart problems and was operated on three years ago in Panama, according to her father who spoke with the consul.

Customs and Border Protection's internal affairs office will investigate the girl's death, and the Homeland Security Department's inspector general and Harlingen police have been notified, Customs and Border Protection said.

Her death comes a week

after a 17-year-old Honduran boy, Ángel Eduardo Maradiaga Espinoza, who was traveling alone, died in U.S. Health and Human Services Department custody. Also, earlier this year, a 4-year-old "medically fragile unaccompanied child from Honduras" died at a hospital in Michigan, Health and Human Services said in a statement Thursday. The agency said the child, who was in the care of the agency's Office of Refugee Resettlement, was taken to the hospital on March 14 following a "cardiac ar-

rest event." She died three days later, the agency said. In recent weeks the U.S. has struggled with large numbers of migrants coming to the border in expectation of the end of Title 42, a regulation that had curbed migration during the pandemic.

Last week, hundreds of migrants were held in open air on U.S. soil between two border walls in San Diego. Many subsisted for days on a limited Border Patrol diet of water and chips or granola bars and whatever volunteers or vendors

passed through openings in the wall.

Pedro Rios, director of the American Friends Service Committee's U.S.-Mexico border program, said Thursday that portable bathrooms were too full to use, forcing migrants to relieve themselves outdoors. He said the Border Patrol told him to call 911 when volunteers encountered an 8-month-old child between the walls was "listless and vomiting." The camp has since been disbanded.

On Thursday, advocates also warned of dangerous conditions for migrants who are still in Mexico trying to gain entry to the United States. Advocates said during a news conference with journalists that they had visited a number of encampments in Mexico to assess conditions there and found little in the way of medical care.

Amy Fischer, director of Refugee and Migrant Rights at Amnesty International USA, said "almost everyone" they saw on the Mexico side of the border "had some type of health condition that they were dealing with." She said that was "almost universal" that migrants were "lifting up their shirt and showing a rash or saying that my kid had X kind of sickness." □

Associated Press



A lift boat, right, that serves as a work platform, assembles a wind turbine on Aug. 15, 2016, off Block Island, R.I.

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A federal judge has rejected a lawsuit brought by Nantucket residents who argued that the planned construction of dozens of wind turbines off the affluent resort island

threatens the survival of endangered Northern Atlantic right whales.

Nantucket Residents Against Turbines said Vineyard Wind's proposed project of some 62 turbines in waters 14 miles (22 kilometers) south of the island is in

Judge rejects lawsuit by Nantucket residents to block wind turbines

a crucial area for foraging and nursing for the dwindling species, which researchers estimate to number about 340.

In a ruling issued Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani found the group failed to show that either the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or the National Marine Fisheries Service violated the Endangered Species Act or the National Environmental Policy Act in issuing a 2021 biological opinion or final environmental impact statement for the wind energy project.

Vineyard Wind CEO Klaus Moeller welcomed the de-

cision. "We're pleased the court has acknowledged the rigorous and thorough administrative review that our project underwent over the last many years," Moeller said in a statement. The 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind project is on track to be the first commercial-scale offshore wind farm in the U.S., with plans to eventually create enough electricity to power 400,000 homes.

Vallorie Oliver, a Nantucket resident and one of the plaintiffs in the case, said the group is considering possible options.

"Nantucket Residents Against Turbines is obvious-

ly disappointed in the ruling," she said. "We will be taking a few days to weigh our options going forward." The American Clean Power Association also applauded the decision, saying it shows "the environmental review process for offshore wind projects is rigorous and effective at ensuring that these projects are built in an environmentally responsible manner."

The visibility of the towering structures — which could rise up to 850 feet (260 meters) above sea level and eclipse Boston's 790-foot (240-meter) Hancock Tower — is also among the group's concerns. □

U.N. expert: Myanmar military imported \$1B in weapons

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Myanmar's military has imported at least \$1 billion worth of weapons and related material from Russia, China and other countries since its February 2021 coup, some of which it has used to carry out atrocities against civilians, according to a U.N. report released Wednesday.

The weapons continue to flow to the military despite overwhelming evidence of its responsibility for the atrocities, including some that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, said Tom Andrews, the U.N. independent investigator on human rights in Myanmar.

As an example of what he called the junta's brutality, Andrews pointed to its April 11 airstrike using a Russian Yak-130 fighter jet on a ceremony attended by some 300 opponents of army rule, which was quickly followed by an attack by Russian Mi-35 helicopters on those who came to help. He said at least 160 people were killed, including many children.

In addition, the machine guns and bombs used in the attacks included parts and materials from companies located in Singapore, China and Thailand, he



Myanmar military officers leave the venue during a parade to commemorate Myanmar's 78th Armed Forces Day in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Monday, March 27, 2023.

Associated Press

said.

Myanmar is mired in strife because of a political crisis unleashed when the military took power. Its takeover prompted widespread peaceful protests that security forces suppressed with deadly force, triggering armed resistance throughout the country that the army has been unable to quell. Andrews said at least 22,000 political prisoners have been detained since the coup, at least 3,500 civilians have been killed and 1.5 million people have been forcibly displaced.

The report documents over 12,500 purchases that were shipped directly to the Myanmar military or known Myanmar arms dealers working for the military from Feb. 1, 2021, when the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, until December 2022, Andrews said at a news conference.

He said the volume and diversity of equipment the military received was "staggering," ranging from fighter jets and attack helicopters and drones to advanced missile systems, tank upgrades, sophisticated

communications equipment, radar complexes and components for naval ships.

Andrews, a former Democratic congressman from Maine, said he had received "highly credible and detailed information from confidential sources" identifying the major networks and companies involved in the arms trade with Myanmar.

The report to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council identifies \$406 million in weapons and material that went to the Myanmar military from Russia, \$267 mil-

lion from China, \$254 million from Singapore, \$51 million from India and \$28 million from Thailand.

Since the coup, the report said, 28 Russian private and state-owned companies have transferred fighter jets and their spare parts, advanced missile systems, reconnaissance and attack drones, attack helicopters and other systems to the junta.

The report identified 41 private and state-owned companies registered in China and Hong Kong that supplied the Myanmar military with an extensive array of arms, equipment and raw materials between October 2021 and December 2022, including advanced trainer jets, light attack aircraft, tank upgrades and repairs for Chinese fighter jets, which make up the Myanmar Air Force fleet, the report said.

They also supplied aluminum, copper, steel, rubber and lubricants for use in Myanmar's domestic weapons manufacturing, it said.

Unlike with Russia and China, and to a lesser extent India, Andrews said he received no information indicating that the governments of Singapore or Thailand approved or transferred arms to the Myanmar military. □

Russia extends detention of U.S. consular worker by 3 months

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian court on Thursday extended by three months the detention of a former employee of the U.S. Consulate in Vladivostok on charges of cooperating with a foreign state.

The U.S. State Department has condemned the arrest of Robert Shonov, which was reported this week. He was detained in Vladivostok on the Pacific coast and brought to Moscow.

The specifics of the charges haven't been reported, including Shonov's alleged actions or what country he

was suspected of cooperating with.

The U.S. State Department says Shonov is a Russian national who worked at the consulate in Vladivostok for more than 25 years. The consulate closed in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and never reopened.

In 2021, Russia ordered the dismissal of all local employees from U.S. diplomatic outposts in the country. From then on, Shonov worked at a company which held a U.S. contract to support the embassy in

Moscow, the department said. Shonov is being held in Moscow's notorious Lefortovo pretrial detention center. Also held in Lefortovo is Evan Gershkovich, an American reporter for The Wall Street Journal. Gershkovich has been in custody since his March 29 arrest by Russia's security service on espionage charges that he, his employer and the U.S. government have denied.

The arrests occurred amid a sharp rise in pressure on critics within Russia since the start of the conflict in



In this handout photo taken from video released by Lefortovo District Court, Robert Shonov walks escorted by officers to the court room at the Lefortovo District Court in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Associated Press

Ukraine, particularly those regarded as discrediting the armed forces.

Yevgeny Roizman, the former mayor of Yekaterinburg and one of Russia's most visible and charismatic opposition figures, is on

trial for discrediting the military, a charge that could bring a prison sentence. But the prosecutor on Thursday called for him to be fined 260,000 rubles (\$3250), suggesting he could avoid prison time. □



The president of Ecuador's dissolved National Assembly Virgilio Saquicela, center, surrounded by other lawmakers, speaks during a press conference in Quito, Ecuador, Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuadorian lawmakers who were ousted when President Guillermo Lasso dissolved the National Assembly denounced the move Thursday and argued it wasn't legal because the country wasn't facing any urgent crisis. The conservative president, who had sparred with the left-leaning assembly over his pro-business agenda since taking office in 2021, disbanded the chamber Wednesday just as it tried to oust him on mismanagement allegations in an impeachment trial.

Lasso was making first use of a 2008 constitutional provision that allows the president to dissolve the assembly during times of political crisis, with the requirement that new elections be held for both lawmakers and the president. However, a law-

suit filed Thursday by the assembly's former head, Virgilio Saquicela, argues that Lasso's move violated the constitution because the country was not experiencing any social upheaval. Instead, Lasso's detractors have argued, the president chose to disband the chamber merely to avoid his own ouster. In an interview with The Associated Press, Saquicela slammed Lasso's move as a last-minute ploy to avoid his removal once it became clear that was under way. "When he saw that he didn't have the votes, he got scared."

Saquicela's lawsuit — and two other challenges filed previously — are before the country's Constitutional Court, which is known to act slowly. Lawmakers have been urging the panel to act quickly this time.

Ecuador lawmakers denounce president's disbanding of National Assembly

"We require, we demand an immediate pronouncement from the Constitutional Court," Saquicela said.

Meanwhile, the National Electoral Council is moving forward with setting a date for elections. Council President Diana Atamaint told the Teleamazonas television network that the electoral body has until Wednesday to decide. The tentative date is Aug. 20. If needed, a runoff would take place Oct. 15.

The constitution allows the president to dissolve the assembly when it oversteps its mandate under the constitution or during times of "serious political crisis and internal commotion."

Minister of Government Henry Cevallos defended Lasso's decision during a news conference Thursday, arguing that the constitution makes it clear that the dismissal is up to the president's "judgment, criteria, discretion and reason," and that it does not require approval of any other entity. The president appears to have the support of the armed forces, but faces pushback from critics including a powerful confederation of indigenous group that previously has

nearly paralyzed the country with protests.

Lasso can now govern for up to six months by means of decrees on economic and administrative issues under the oversight of Ecuador's Constitutional Court. The National Electoral Council is required to set a date for presidential and legislative elections within seven days from Lasso's decision. Lawmakers want the court to issue a ruling before the council makes a decision, because after the election date is set "no authority may interfere in the carrying out of the process," lawyer and electoral analyst Medardo Oleas said. He added that if the Constitutional Court interfered, its members "could be dismissed."

The council was scheduled to meet Thursday night to discuss the election.

Those elected would finish the terms of Lasso and the lawmakers he ousted, which had been set to end in May 2025. Lasso, a former banker, can choose to run in the election.

Lawmakers had accused Lasso of not having intervened to end a contract between the state-owned oil transport company and

a private tanker company. They argued Lasso knew the contract was full of irregularities and would cost the state millions in losses.

During impeachment proceedings Tuesday, Lasso noted that the contract predated his administration. He also said that the state-owned company experienced losses of \$6 million a year before he took office, and that it has seen \$180 million in profits under his watch. Lasso had clashed from the start of his four-year term with the opposition-led National Assembly. He accused them Wednesday of focusing "on destabilizing the government." On Tuesday, he had dismissively referred to their impeachment allegations against him as stretching "the limits of human imagination."

Saquicela accused Lasso's government of being "incapable of solving the real problems of Ecuadorians" including health, transportation and security issues. He rejected any shared responsibility for the turmoil affecting the country arguing that the assembly had complied with its constitutional obligation to legislate. □

Car rushes Vatican gate; driver apprehended after reaching courtyard

ROME (AP) — A car driven by someone with apparent psychiatric problems rushed through a Vatican gate Thursday evening and sped past Swiss Guards into a palace courtyard before the driver was apprehended by police, the Holy See said.

Vatican gendarmes fired a shot at the speeding car's front tires after it rushed the gate, but the vehicle managed to continue on its way, the Vatican press office said in a statement late Thursday.

Once the car reached the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, the driver got out and was

immediately arrested by Vatican gendarmes. The Vatican said the driver was about 40 years old and was in a "serious state of psychophysical alteration." He was being held in the Vatican barracks.

It wasn't clear if Pope Francis was anywhere near the incident, which occurred after 8 p.m. at the Santa Anna gate, one of the main entrances to the Vatican City State in the heart of Rome.

Francis lives on the other side of Vatican City at the Santa Marta hotel, where at that hour he would normally be having dinner and retiring to his room. The Vat-

ican statement said that as soon as the gendarmes sounded the alarm of an incursion, the main gate blocking access to the piazza in front of Francis' hotel was shut.

The incident was a rare incursion into the city state, much of which is off limits to the general public, especially at night.

While visitors can access St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums during business hours, and people with doctors' prescriptions can go to the Vatican pharmacy, permission is required to get into other buildings in the enclave.

The Apostolic Palace,



Pope Francis pauses during his weekly general audience in the St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

Associated Press

which houses the papal apartments, key reception rooms, the Vatican archives and offices, is

guarded around the clock by Swiss Guards and gendarmes who man various checkpoints. □

The Aruba International Poetry Encounter comes to an end

(Oranjestad)—Last Wednesday, after a week of activities with the support of the public who have gone to see and hear poetry, the artists also shared a little bit more about their talents in workshops, officially closing the Aruba International Poetry Encounter on May 17th.

From 5pm to 7pm, Jhon Martinez hosted a workshop in which he taught participants to make their own hand made book using paper scraps, or "cartonero." A cartonero book is based on ancient Japanese book



binding methods, where the maker would have no need for electronic devices like printers.

The point of the workshop, according to Martinez, is to help people create things using resources that are readily available at home.

"What we really want is to establish a foundation for people who may be interested in literature or poetry, or for people who are interested in arts and crafts, he said.

In terms of the closure of the festival, this took place



at 7:30pm at the Rancho Foundation headquarters, where there were many activities organized, including interactive poetry and music. Headlining artists included Randall Luidens, local artist and entrepreneur, as well as Brazilian poet Wil-

son Alvarez, who both discussed where rhythm and poetry separate and come together. There were also other international and national artists present, who shared their talents and work to the Aruban community. □

Kiwanis Club of Aruba has elected its new board of directors for 2023-2024 Dr. Manaaf was elected as the club's 55th president

(Oranjestad)—On Wednesday night, 10th of May, the Kiwanis Club of Aruba, under the leadership of President Jokoeza Hooplot, held their annual meeting, where all present members elected the organization's board of directors for the year 2023-2024. The new board will begin their function starting October 1st of this year.

The Kiwanis Club of Aruba is a proud member of Kiwanis International, and is a local association funded since September 5th, 1964, committing itself to local and international volunteer work. During the annual meeting, Dr. Manaaf Badloe was elected as the association's 55th president, and is honored to have assumed this position, to help achieve important goals so as to continue serving the most vulnerable within the Aruban community, especially our children.

The board of director for the year 2023-2024, which will begin its function starting

October, will be consisting eleven dynamic members ready to serve the Aruban community. These members include:

President:	Dr. Manaaf Badloe
President Elect:	Tracey Werleman
Vice President:	Indra Pereira
Treasurer:	Natalie Solognier
Secretary:	Ralitza Werleman
Immediate Past President:	Jokoeza Hooplot
Director:	Derchlien Dijkhoff
Director:	Tessely Koolman-Ranis
Director:	Edbert Schwengle
Director:	Gay Spellin
Director:	Fernando Rigaud

Currently, the Kiwanis Club of Aruba counts on 38 of its female and male members who are active within the community and who give back to the Aruban community through various projects. They also continue to be a positive reflection of people with different backgrounds.



Newly-elected president, Dr. Manaaf Badloe, among others, has committed himself to do his absolute best to serve all members of the club and to provide them an unforgettable experience in volunteer work. He has also committed himself to provide guidance and a helping hand to the most vulnerable within our society.

For more information, visit the Kiwanis Club of Aruba website at www.kiwanisclubofaruba.org or follow the organization's page on Facebook and Instagram. □



Kid\$preneur wraps up at Washington Primary School at the Traimerdia in Noord

ORANJESTAD - The Minister of Economic Affairs, Communications and Sustainable Development, Geofrey Wever had the honor of presenting the certificates to the children who participated in and finished the Kid\$preneurs program at the Traimerdia, an after-school care in Noord.

This time the Kid\$preneurs took place at the after-school program at the Primary School In Washington.

"Kid\$preneur\$ is a project of the section IDEA of the Department of Economic Affairs.

The objective of this program is to encourage children and youth to develop a plan from an idea, and a business from a plan. This way we can teach our kids the knowledge of good practice from a young age. The duty of educating and inspiring our kids is highly important and the minister is happy to see the interest in this group of kids and greens.

"The vision and desire that



these kids have shown is admirable," said the Minister. Whether they choose to become business people or not in the future, the hope is that Kid\$preneurs helped inspire the youth to chase

whatever their dream is and bring it to life.

"The bright future of Aruba is in the hands of these kids and teens, and we need to continue to make the ef-



fort to support their dreams and inspire them to be the best person they can be, eliminating any barrier they may find in their creativity."

They gain knowledge in

starting, managing, and growing a successful business venture.

Minister Wever thanks DE-ACI and Its unit ODEA for a successful Kid\$preneur\$ once again. □

Dutch cadets roll up their sleeves in Aruba

On Saturday, May 20th, Dutch cadets from the Royal Military Academy in Breda will participate in a community day on the beach of Aruba, engaging in activities such as a beach clean-up. Through this, they demonstrate their connection to the island of Aruba and its residents.

This community day in Aruba is part of an exercise for future officers to train their military skills in different climatic and cultural conditions. The

aim of this week is to gain experience in leadership in unfamiliar environments, better preparing them for future roles.

Program Under the supervision of volunteers from Turtugaruba, a group of cadets will collect waste at Beach Damari between 07:00-10:30 AM. Another group, led by Scubblebubble, will go to the beach north of the Californian Light-house between 08:00-11:00 AM. A third group

will assist with pruning in the mangroves between 07:00-10:30 AM.

The training The cadets are in their final year of the four-year officer training program. After this exercise, the training will continue for a few more months before they embark on the specialized part of their training or begin their first position in the Dutch Armed Forces. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. This lovely couple was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love to the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor
(10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador
(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba
Mr. Vladimir Viktora & Mrs. Dagmar Viktorova from Pruhonice, Czech Republic.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Viktora & Mrs. Viktorova for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island."

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mr. Vladimir & Mrs. Dagmar were:
Aruba's warm consistent weather all year round
The Manchebo Beach Resort & staff
Aruba's nice sandy beaches
Aruba's relaxing environment
"Aruba is our home away from home." □



The Central Bureau of Statistics presents the most important findings for the Foreign Trade of the 1st quarter 2023

Total Import

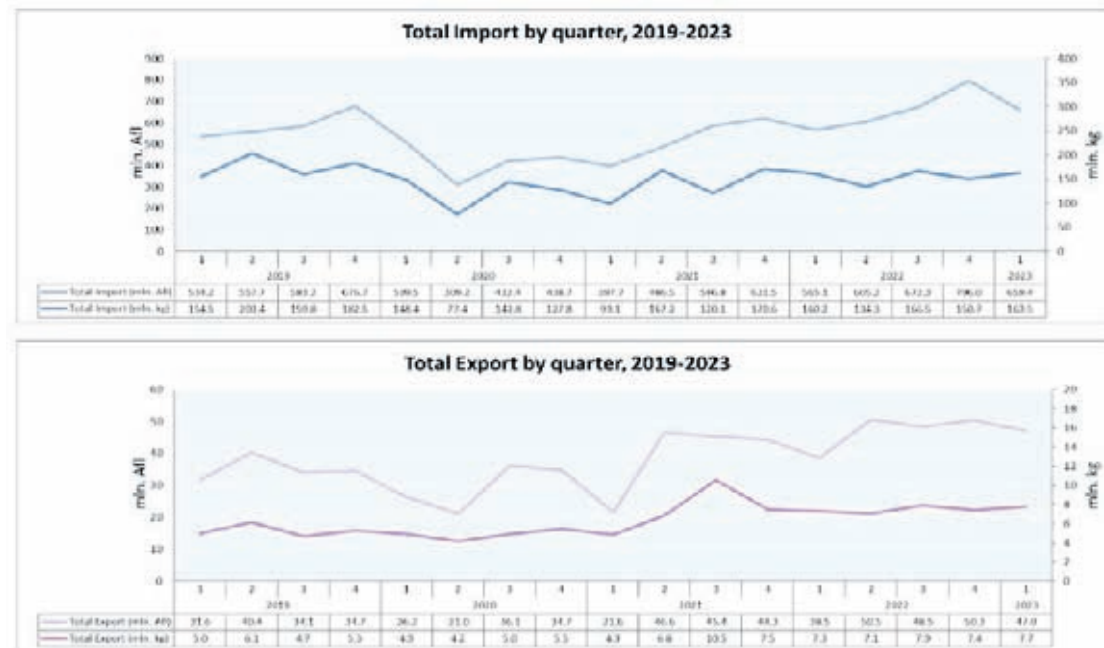
The total import, in terms of weight, registered an increase of 3.3 mln. Kg (2.0%) in the first quarter of 2023 (163.5 mln. kg) compared to the same period in 2022 (160.2 mln. kg), while, in terms of value, the total import increased by Afl. 94.3 mln (16.7%), from Afl. 565.1 mln. to Afl. 659.4 mln.

Import to the free circulation area of Aruba* (weight)

Import to the free circulation area of Aruba, in terms of weight, registered an increase of 2.9 mln. Kg (1.9%) in the first quarter of 2023 (161.0 mln. kg), compared to the same period in 2022 (158.0 mln. kg). During this period, eleven (11) of the twenty-one (21) sections registered increases in terms of weight in import to the free circulation area of Aruba. The largest increases are observed for the sections "Base metals and derivated works" 1.2 mln. Kg (30.9%), "Mineral products" 1.2 mln. Kg (1.2%), and "Transport equipment" 1.0 mln. Kg (65.6%). The largest decreases are observed for the sections "Food products" -0.6 mln. Kg (-3.8%), "Wood, charcoal and woodwork" -0.6 mln. Kg (-21.2%) and "Miscellaneous manufactured articles" -0.5 mln. Kg (-25.8%).

Import to the free circulation area of Aruba* (value)

Import to the free circulation area of Aruba, in terms of value, registered an increase of Afl. 87.2 mln. (16.3%) in the first quarter of 2023 (Afl. 623.0 mln.) compared to the same period in 2022 (Afl. 535.8 mln.). During this period, nineteen (19) of the twenty-one (21) sections registered increases in terms of value in import to the free circulation area of Aruba. The largest increases are observed for the sections "Transport equipment" Afl. 18.0 mln. (68.6%), "Food products" Afl. 12.6 mln. (18.2%) and "Mineral products" Afl. 9.6 mln. (23.2%). The only two decreases are



* Free circulation area of Aruba: all goods entering or leaving the economic territory of Aruba, excluding the Free Zone
 ** Large companies refers to the following companies: Valero, Arugas, Web, Elmar and Setar

observed for the sections "Works of art, collectors pieces and antiques" -2.2 mln. Kg (-48.4%) "Wood, charcoal and woodwork" -1.8 mln. Kg (-26.3%).

Import to the free Zone of Aruba

Import to the free Zone of Aruba, in terms of weight, registered an increase of 0.3 mln. kg (14.1%) in the first quarter of 2023 (2.5 mln. kg) compared to the same period in 2022 (2.2 mln. kg) and was mainly due to an increase of 0.3 mln. kg (14.0%) in the section "Mineral products". In terms of value, the import to the free Zone of Aruba increased by Afl. 7.2 mln (24.4%) from Afl. 29.3 mln. to Afl. 36.5 mln and was mainly due to an increase of Afl. 6.9 mln. (24.0%) in the section "Food products". The abovementioned Import (to the free calculation area of Aruba) is the result of Import by Sea and Import by Air, which had the following developments:

1. Import to the free circulation area of Aruba* by Sea

Import by Sea to the free circulation area of Aruba, in terms of weight, registered an increase of 2.9 mln. kg (1.9%) in the first quarter of 2023 (160.2 mln. kg) compared to the same period in 2022 (157.3 mln. kg) and was mainly due increases in the sections "Base metals

and derivated works" (1.2 mln. kg, 31.3%) and "Mineral products" (1.2 mln. kg, 1.2%).

In terms of value, the import by Sea increased by Afl. 75.5 mln. (17.3%) from Afl. 436.6 mln. to Afl. 512.1 mln and was mainly due to increases of Afl. 18.0 mln. (71.6%) and Afl. 12.9 mln. (19.3%) in the sections "Transport equipment" and "Food products", respectively.

2. Import to the free circulation area of Aruba* by Air

Import by Air to the free circulation area of Aruba, in terms of weight, increased by 0.01 mln. kg (1.4%) from 0.74 mln. kg in the first quarter of 2022 to 0.75 mln. kg in the first quarter of 2023 and was mainly due to an increase of 0.02 mln. kg (26.2) in the section "Machinery & electrotechnical equipment (new & renewed)". In terms of value, the import by Air increased by Afl. 11.7 mln. (11.8%) from Afl. 99.2 mln. to Afl. 110.8 mln and was mainly due to an increase of Afl. 6.6 mln. (36.6%) in the section "Real pearls (natural) and other precious stones". Import to the free circulation area of Aruba* by Large companies**

Import by "Large companies", in terms of weight, increased by 2.6 mln. kg (11.7%) from 22.5 mln. kg in

the first quarter of 2022 to 25.2 mln. kg in the first quarter of 2023 and was mainly due to an increase of 2.6 mln. kg (12.1%) in the section "Mineral products".

In terms of value, the import by "Large companies" increased by Afl. 10.8 mln. (18.3%) from Afl. 59.0 mln. to Afl. 69.8 mln and was mainly due to an increase of Afl. 8.2 mln. (24.5%) in the section "Mineral products".

Total Export

The total export, in terms of weight, registered an increase of 0.5 mln. Kg (6.4%) in the first quarter of 2023 (7.7 mln. kg) compared to the same period of 2022 (7.3 mln. kg), while, in terms of value, the total export increased by Afl. 8.5 mln. (22.1%) from Afl. 38.5 mln. to Afl. 47.0 mln. Export from the free circulation area of Aruba* (weight) Export from the free circulation area of Aruba, in terms of weight, registered an increase of 0.3 mln. Kg (4.9%) in the first quarter of 2023 (5.5 mln. kg) compared to the same period in 2022 (5.2 mln. kg). Thirteen (13) of the twenty-one (21) sections, registered increases in terms of weight in the export from the free circulation area of Aruba. The largest increases are observed for the sections "Food products" 0.6 mln. Kg. (196.5%), "Materials for the manufacture of paper, paperwork" 0.4

mln. Kg. (38.1%) and "Machinery & electrotechnical equipment (new & renewed)" 0.3 mln. kg. (690.7%).

The largest decreases are observed for the sections "Works of stone, gypsum, cement, asbestos" -0.6 mln. kg. (-74.2%), "Base metals and derivated works" -0.3 mln. kg (-13.2%) and "Transport equipment" -0.1 mln. kg (-82.8%).

Export from the free circulation area of Aruba* (value)

Export from the free circulation area of Aruba, in terms of value, registered an increase of Afl. 2.1 mln. (15.7%) in the first quarter of 2023 (Afl. 15.5 mln.) compared to the same period in 2022 (Afl. 13.4 mln.). Twelve (12) of the twenty-one (21) sections, registered increases in terms of value in the export from the free circulation area of Aruba. The largest increases are observed for the sections "Base metals and derivated works" Afl. 1.0 mln. (39.1%), "Food products" Afl. 1.0 mln. (155.0%) and "Skins, hides, leather and peltry" Afl. 0.7 mln. (1,727.0%). The largest decreases are observed for the sections "Transport equipment" Afl. -1.7 mln. (-96.1%), "Chemical products" Afl. -0.5 mln. (-32.6%) and "Works of stone, gypsum, cement, asbestos" Afl. -0.2 mln. (-72.6%).

Export from the free Zone of Aruba

Export from the free Zone of Aruba, in terms of weight, registered an increase of 0.2 mln. kg (10.1%) in the first quarter of 2023 (2.3 mln. kg) compared to the same period in 2022 (2.1 mln. kg) and was mainly due to an increase of 0.2 mln. kg (10.5%) in the section "Food products". In terms of value, the export from the free Zone of Aruba increased by Afl. 6.4 mln. (25.4%) from Afl. 25.2 mln. to Afl. 31.6 mln. and was mainly due to an increase of Afl. 6.4 mln. (25.7%) in the section "Food products".

Thayisa Farro:**“Dancing has and continues to bring joy in my life”**

(Oranjestad)—Thayisa Zieryani Farro is a young adult who has been, since very young, active in different hobbies. As an adult and currently working as a tax advisor, she still participates in activities and continues to practice her hobbies. In a special interview with our Aruba Today, she shares her life story, her hobbies and how she hopes to continue to be active for many more years to come.

BDA: Tell us a bit about yourself and your childhood.

Farro: “Aside from school, I had a very active childhood, where I had taken dance lessons, cuatro lessons, ping-pong and drawing lessons. Out of all these activities, it was dancing that I loved the most. After I finished primary school, I attended Colegio Arubano secondary school and at that time I knew that if I didn't finish home work or finish studying, I would not be allowed to go to dance lessons, no matter how much I cried and begged.

Besides these things, I spent a long time with family, especially my sibling and cousins. We spent a lot of hours playing outside, going to the beach, riding bikes and playing ball games. It was a fun time.”

BDA: How old were you when you started in the dance world? And why did you choose dancing?

Farro: “I started ballet lessons at 4 years old at Simadanza with Miss Ina Profet. My mom put me in these lessons, because she never had the opportunity herself to do this. I ended up loving ballet after a few lessons. From there my love for dancing grew. Besides the lessons at Simadanza, I also danced with Pierewietje, with Miss Martha Figa-

roa. When I turned 10 years old, I started folklore lessons with Miss Astrid Salazar from Simadanza. I slowly started participating in more dance lessons at Simadanza, including jazz-ballet, modern dance, street dance and tap dance.

When I went to study abroad, I took some dance lessons too. When I came back to the island, I went back to Simadanza. Now, as an adult, I participated in a few lessons at ArubaSalsa with Miss Melitza Bermudez and I'm currently dancing with Kids and Youth in Action.”

BDA: What did you study?

Farro: “When I was younger, I always wanted to be a dentist. When I finished secondary school, I was drawn out to study dentistry in The Netherlands. During this time, I went to Belgium to study biomedical sciences y obstetrics with the thought that I would be able to study dentistry later. Unfortunately, I was never chosen by the university. After 2 years, I returned to Aruba. This is when I was advised to study Law at the University of Aruba, because it was a very broad study. After I finished my Bachelor of Law, I did my Masters in Taxes at the University of Aruba and Maastricht; totally different from dentistry, but still a study that taught me a lot about our rights on the island.”

BDA: Do you feel that dancing made you the person that you are today?

Farro: “Looking back, I feel that dancing helped me become disciplined, determined and responsible. Dancing taught me to prioritize my time so I can finish my other obligations from school or work before I can dedicate it to dancing. It's also a time where I can be



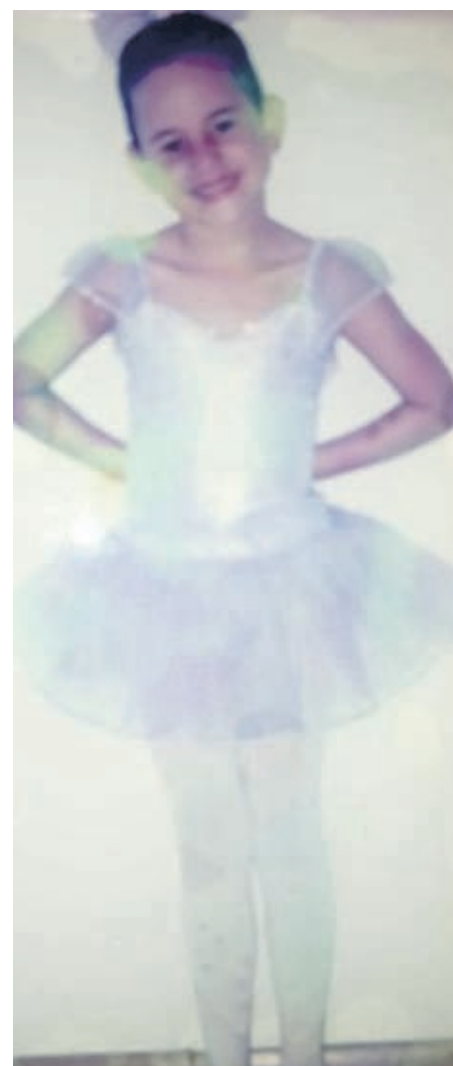
creative and challenge myself so I can master a certain dance or choreography.”

BDA: you still dance. Is it something you see yourself doing for a long time?

Farro: “I sure hope so! Dancing has and continues to bring joy in my life. I got to know a lot of people through dancing and I'll always have an admiration for them. During dance lessons, we would always laugh and have a great time. It's a time where the stresses of everyday life disappear. Dancing has also been proved to reduce the risks for certain chronic illnesses, like dementia. For this reason, I wish to be dancing for many more years, so I can keep the mind and body strong and healthy.”

BDA: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Farro: In 10 years, I hope to still be dancing and be active in the dance and sports world. I hope to be in good health, spending more time with family and friends, and using my life experiences to help and inspire others.” □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Isolated of "Green Book"
 - 6 Fuses
 - 11 Sub sounder
 - 12 Plain to see
 - 13 Rho follower
 - 14 Copycat's cry
 - 15 Before, to bards
 - 16 Sch. support group
 - 18 Quill need
 - 19 Musical note
 - 20 Play on words
 - 21 Player's peg
 - 22 New York's — Island
 - 24 Encircle
 - 25 Latte preparer
 - 27 Speedy horse
 - 29 Missouri motto
 - 32 Not neg.
 - 33 Dessert choice
 - 34 Galloped
 - 35 — Alamos
 - 36 "2001" computer
 - 37 Company abbr.
 - 38 Psi follower
- DOWN**
- 1 Rate
 - 2 Belgian sleuth
 - 3 "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" co-star
 - 4 Zodiac animal
 - 5 Fur trader
 - 6 Grown girl
 - 7 Second person
 - 8 "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" co-star
 - 9 Tiresome talker
 - 10 Excited
 - 17 Libya neighbor
 - 23 Bar bill
 - 24 Car in a 1964 song
 - 26 Put on hold
 - 27 Poise
 - 28 Dorm sharer
 - 30 Crèche part
 - 31 Concert bonus
 - 33 Full moon, for one
 - 39 Acquire
 - 41 Mineral suffix

A	C	I	D	S			D	A	D	A	
N	A	S	A	L			S	A	G	E	S
I	V	O	R	Y			U	R	A	L	S
M	E	T	E			L	I	T	T	L	E
A	D	O		S	E	T		E	A	T	
L	I	P	S	T	I	C	K				
	N	E	A	R			A	I	R	S	
			D	I	P	S	T	I	C	K	
L	A	B		D	O	E		C	A	N	
O	M	E	L	E	T			D	A	M	E
S	I	R	E	N			N	O	R	M	A
E	G	R	E	T			A	D	D	E	D
S	O	A	R				B	O	O	R	S

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Rate
 - 2 Belgian sleuth
 - 3 "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" co-star
 - 4 Zodiac animal
 - 5 Fur trader
 - 6 Grown girl
 - 7 Second person
 - 8 "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" co-star
 - 9 Tiresome talker
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 - 26 Put on hold
 - 27 Poise
 - 28 Dorm sharer
 - 30 Crèche part
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 - 33 Full moon, for one
 - 39 Acquire
 - 41 Mineral suffix

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15				16	17		18		
19				20			21		
22			23			24			
		25			26				
27	28				29			30	31
32				33			34		
35				36			37		
38			39			40	41		
42						43			
44						45			

5-19

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

QFG'PM SFU T BUTP GSUEA

UJMQ LTS BYMAA QFGP STKM

ES NTPTLJE. JGKYJPMQ

IFVTPU

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT JUST BEING IS FUN. — KATHARINE HEPBURN

Pick a college bank account as carefully as your college

By SPENCER TIERNEY
of NerdWallet

Attending college can get pricey, so you'll want to avoid costs from other places — like your bank account.

More than 668,000 students paid nearly \$15.5 million in bank account costs in a year, an average of almost \$26 per person, according to a 2022 report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. What's worse is that some colleges endorse costly bank accounts as part of their partnerships with banks.

"Do not assume that because your college or university partners with a bank, that bank is offering you a good deal," Aaron Klein, senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution, said in an email. Before heading off to college, consider what factors you need in a college checking account. There's no grade on this, but the wrong bank can cost you.

DECIDE WHAT FEATURES MATTER

Checking accounts work similarly wherever you bank, but some features vary or aren't available at every bank, including branches, highly rated mobile apps, certain account fees and perks such as direct deposit up to two days early. The biggest banks generally have robust apps and big branch networks, but their account fees can be high. In contrast, regional banks and credit unions — the not-for-profit counterpart to banks — might have lower fees and more of a community focus, but they have fewer branches and might lag in technology. Online banks



In this Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 file photo, a person inserts a debit card into an ATM in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

can have minimal fees and high-quality apps, but they often lack a branch network and the ability to deposit cash isn't guaranteed. Nationwide ATM access is usually available at credit unions and online banks through shared networks, but they might not be as easy to spot as big bank ATMs. Just don't limit your options to only accounts marketed as "college checking." You might miss out on banking features you'd want.

CHECK FOR FEES

Watch out for fees on monthly maintenance, ATM usage and overdrafts. You can often avoid a monthly fee, such as \$5 or \$10, by having a certain minimum balance or direct deposits into your account — or by finding a checking account without monthly fees. Using an ATM to withdraw cash outside your bank's network can trigger a fee of around \$2 to \$3 from your bank, plus a fee from the ATM operator. And overdraft or nonsufficient funds fees can be \$30 or more per transaction, which will kick in if a payment drops your account balance below zero.

Carla Sanchez-Adams, senior attorney at the National Consumer Law Center, recommends looking into Bank On certified accounts, which don't have overdraft or NSF fees. Transactions that would bring an account balance below zero get declined instead. Plus, these accounts can have screening practices inclusive of those with less banking history.

You might have to pay fees for some services, such as getting a checkbook. "Not every account is going to be completely free," says David Rothstein, senior principal at Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, who manages Bank On, CFE Fund's national platform that promotes financial inclusion.

FACTOR IN ACCOUNT SECURITY

This year, there have been three bank collapses. While bank failures are rare, federal deposit insurance protects your money. If a bank fails, you get up to \$250,000 of your money back. Banks get insured through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., and credit unions have the equivalent protection through the National Credit Union Administration. □

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1 BR WK 31 room 2336
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Price : \$ 10 K all 3 weeks
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www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Renaissance ocean suites

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Room # 2518
Harbor / ocean view
Price : \$ 10 K all 3 weeks
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Marriott surf club

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2 BR Ocean side \$ 19 K
2 BR Ocean view \$ 18 K
2 BR Garden view \$ 17 K
Gold season
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 18 K
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1 BR Ocean View
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1 BR WK # 17 room1232 \$ 3,6 K
1 BR WK # 17 room1226 \$ 3,6 K
1 BR WK # 17/18 room1326 \$ 4,5 K each
1 BR WK # 17 room # 1327 \$ 4,5 K
1 BR WK # 17 room1431 \$ 4,5 K
1 BR WK # 17 room 1434 \$ 4,5 K
1 BR WK # 17 room1328 \$ 4,5 K
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1 BR WK # 18 room1335 \$ 4500
1 BR WK # 18 room1333 \$ 4500
1 BR WK # 18 room1427 \$ 4500
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Ambassador suites

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1 BR WK # 19 room # 1230 \$3,6 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1234 \$3,6 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1329 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1426 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1428 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1432 \$4,5 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1128 \$4 K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1134 \$4 K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1433 \$4 K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1335 \$4,5K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1428 \$4,5K
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2 BR WK # 18 room # 1209 \$ 5 K
2 BR WK # 18 room # 1219 \$ 8 K
2 BR WK # 18 room # 1317 \$ 8 K
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Casa Del Mar

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2 BR WK # 19 room # 1217 \$ 7 K
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A delicious Jason Momoa saves 'Fast X' from furiously speeding off into numbness

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer

Fans and critics may disagree over when exactly the "Fast & Furious" franchise jumped the shark, but there is only one correct answer: When the Pontiac Fiero went into space.

Weightless and violating every physical law, the floating car — tasked with bumping a satellite in the ninth installment — was the very symbol of how bloated and crazed the once-plucky series had become. There really was no way down after that.

And yet we have come to 10, part of a planned series of films finally saying goodbye. "Fast X" is, thankfully, shackled to Earth's gravity — sometimes tenuously, it must be said — but it has become almost camp, as if it breathed in too much of its own fumes.

"Fast X" reaches into the fifth movie — 2011's "Fast Five" — for the seeds to tell a new story. In a memorable moment five movies ago, Vin Diesel's Dom Toretto wrecked a bad guy and his team on a bridge in Rio de Janeiro. Little did we

know then, but that bad guy had a son who survived and now, years later, vows vengeance. That's it. That's the plot.

That said, "Fast X" is monstrously silly and stupidly entertaining — just Wile E. Coyote stuff, ridiculous stunts employing insane G-forces and everything seemingly on fire. There are elements of "Mission: Impossible," "007" and "John Wick," as if all the action franchises were somehow merging. But here's a warning: It careens to an end without a payoff, a more dangerous stunt than any in the movies themselves.

The film would not be near enough as fun without Jason Momoa, who plays the bad guy's son as a full-on flamboyant psycho, licking a knife clean after killing someone with it and painting the toenails of a dead victim as he displays the corpse in a demented garden party. "Never accept death when suffering is owed," he says.

He is half Joaquin Phoenix from "The Joker" and half Jack Sparrow from "Pirates of the Caribbean." Momoa



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Jason Momoa in a scene from "Fast X."

Associated Press

has a penchant for planning explosions and then standing on a high spot and throwing his arms wide like Christ the Redeemer as the blast wave hits. The film sags as soon as he's not in it.

Momoa is part of the franchise's familiar tactic of stacking ever more stars with not enough to do — this time we also welcome Brie Larson, Alan Ritchson, Daniela Melchior and Rita Moreno. There's even a Pete Davidson cameo.

That's on top of regulars Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Chris "Ludacris"

Bridges, Jordana Brewster, John Cena, Jason Statham, Charlize Theron, Sung Kang, Scott Eastwood and Helen Mirren, whose attempt once again at a working-class accent is comical. This is a clown car of talent. The poster for the film includes 14 characters, like an Avengers movie.

At the center is the always-sleeveless Diesel, who keeps getting exposed as a truly terrible actor, one who evidently only attended the Brooding 101 seminar in drama school. The filmmakers usually just prop him up in front of a wall of

family photos and he stares at them intently. "I only care about protecting the people that I love," he will growl.

Family — as fans of the franchise know well — is always central, or rather, a gothic zero-sum notion of blood's bond explained with soap opera dialogue. Toretto must protect family no matter the cost (but apparently OK with leaving his 8-year-old son in someone else's care as he drag races in Rio). "You know what your problem is?" teases Momoa. "Family. You can't save them all." □



Christiane Amanpour participates in the "Amanpour & Co." panel during the TCA Summer Press Tour on July 30, 2018, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Veteran correspondent Christiane Amanpour became the most prominent CNN

journalist to publicly criticize her network for airing last week's town hall with former President Donald Trump.

Amanpour told a group of

CNN's Amanpour criticizes network's decision to hold Trump town hall

graduating students at Columbia University's graduate school of journalism on Wednesday that she would have "dropped the mic at 'nasty person,'" a reference to when Trump lobbed that insult at moderator Kaitlan Collins.

CNN was criticized for hosting Trump at a live event in New Hampshire, where the 2024 presidential candidate repeated lies about the last election before a mostly adoring audience. CNN Chairman Chris Licht has defended the town hall as newsworthy and important, and Amanpour said she had a "robust discussion" with him about it.

Everyone knows Trump tries to seize the stage and dominate at such events, said Amanpour, the chief international correspondent who has worked at CNN for 40 years.

"No matter how much flak the moderator tries to aim at the incoming, it doesn't work," she said.

Perhaps today's journalism leaders should learn from those in the 1950s, who refused to give Sen. Joseph McCarthy attention "unless his foul lies, his witch hunts and his rants" reached the basic level for evidence allowed in a courtroom, she said.

"Maybe less is more," she

said. "Maybe live is not always right."

Amanpour criticized the town hall's audience, chosen by CNN because they were Republicans or independents who plan to vote in the 2024 Republican primary.

Citing the precedents of past candidate debates or forums, CNN should have insisted "that our invited guests behave themselves — no hooting, no hollering, no jeering, no cheering."

"I can only hope that your trust in us might have been shaken but not shattered, that you believe that we can survive and rebuild that trust," she said. □

Haney faces Lomachenko for undisputed lightweight championship

By MARK ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — This is the fight Devin Haney wanted four years ago, but in 2019, he was still working his way toward becoming a championship fighter.

Vasiliy Lomachenko was viewed by many as the best pound-for-pound boxer at the time, and fighting Haney didn't interest him. Haney now is the undisputed lightweight champion, and though not thrilled at being previously passed over — he has brought it up, oh, about 1,000 times — he is giving Lomachenko a shot. The two will meet in a 12-round match for the title Saturday at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

"I definitely feel like he should've fought me four years ago," Haney said. "I would've at least got my shot four years ago. But Allah is a perfect planner, and now my time has finally come. It's going to be worse than it would've been four years ago for him."

Odds makers agree. Haney is a minus-280 favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

Haney, who is from the San Francisco Bay Area and lives in Las Vegas, is 29-0 with 15 knockouts. He



Devin Haney, left, and Vasiliy Lomachenko pose during a press conference Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in Las Vegas.

holds all four championship belts, having risen to WBC champ in October 2019 after Lomachenko had his title removed.

Haney, 24, became the undisputed champion after winning a one-sided unanimous decision over George Kambosos Jr. in June 2022 in Melbourne. The two fought in Australia that October, and the result was largely the same.

The irony is Lomachenko could've fought Kambosos, and his manager, Egis Klimas, badly wanted him

to take that fight. But Lomachenko had won two Olympic gold medals while boxing for Ukraine, and he didn't want to stand idly by while his country was under attack by Russia.

Lomachenko told Klimas: "I'm not going. It's not what's on my mind right now. I can't think about my career. I can't think about boxing. All I can see right now is our country's being bombed. People are getting killed. Everybody in this country needs me here." So Lomachenko enrolled in

a territorial defense battalion for Ukraine.

"A lot of things are more important than the sport of boxing," Top Rank CEO Bob Arum said. "One of them is patriotism, particularly when your country is in the grips of defending itself from a terrible aggressor. ... I salute all the people of Ukraine, and I salute Vasiliy Lomachenko for the stand he took staying behind to defend his country rather than participate across the globe in Australia in a fight." It was Haney's big break.

"I respect his decision to stay and fight for his country," Haney said. "It allowed for me to get my shot to go to Australia, so it's only right to give him his shot as well." Lomachenko, 35, is a former three-division champion, and he takes a 17-2 record with 11 KOs into this bout.

The odds are literally against him as he approaches the latter stages of his boxing career, but Saturday is a major opportunity to make a massive statement.

"I understand it's the last chance to be undisputed," Lomachenko said.

Also on the main card are a 10-round junior lightweight fight between two-division world champion Oscar Valdez (30-1, 23 KOs) and Adam Lopez (16-4, 6 KOs) and a 10-round lightweight bout between Raymond Muratalla (17-0, 14 KOs) and Jeremia Nakathila (23-2, 19 KOs). The undercard features a 12-round WBO junior bantamweight title fight between Junto Nakatani (24-0, 18 KOs) and Andrew Moloney (25-2, 16 KOs). Should Moloney win, he would join his twin, Jason, as a world champion and become the first Australian brothers to hold belts at the same time. Jason Moloney is the WBO bantamweight champ. □

Associated Press

Denz claims first Grand Tour stage win, Thomas stays in Giro lead

RIVOLI, Italy (AP) — Nico Denz won the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Thursday for his first victory in a Grand Tour, while Geraint Thomas kept hold of the pink jersey as the race prepares to head into the mountains.

Denz, who rides for Bora-Hansgrohe, beat Toms Skujinš and Sebastian Berwick at the end of the 185-kilometer (115-mile) hill leg from Bra to Rivoli in the Piedmont region.

The first stage win for Denz in his sixth Giro prompted the German to yell in joy after crossing the line and put his hands on his head as his eyes appeared to tear up.

All three riders were in a large breakaway that had to battle to escape at the beginning of the day.

The trio pulled away from its fellow escapees and had an advantage of more than eight minutes on the general classification group on the toughest part of the stage, a second-category climb 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the finish.

"The breakaway was definitely hard to get in, and then the hardest moment for me was the last climb, I was suffering so much and I barely made it over the top," Denz said. "But getting there was also not so easy."

"When I made it over the last climb ... I used the downhill to recover. And on the bottom, I started to think, 'yeah, I can make this actually.' And then they didn't attack me, so I just threw everything in and yeah, from there on I thought, 'I can maybe do this.'"

The rest of the breakaway rolled across the line two minutes, 20 seconds behind, around six minutes ahead of the GC contenders.

Thomas remained two seconds ahead of Primož Roglič and 22 ahead of João Almeida.

There was a minute of si-



Germany's Nico Denz celebrates winning the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Bra to Rivoli, Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Associated Press

lence before the start on Thursday to honor those affected by the flooding in Emilia-Romagna.

It was a quieter day in the peloton after an eventful few days which saw pre-

race favorite Remco Evenepoel withdraw after testing positive for the coronavirus and Tao Geoghegan Hart leave the race on a stretcher after a crash on Wednesday. □

Nadal to miss French Open, expects 2024 to be last season

By **JOSEPH WILSON and HOWARD FENDRICH**
Associated Press

For months, Rafael Nadal waited for his body to heal. Waited to be able to push himself around a court at full speed, with full energy, of the sort that has carried him to a record 14 titles at the French Open and a total of 22 at all Grand Slam tournaments.

He finally acknowledged Thursday it wasn't going to happen in time for Roland Garros, where play begins in 10 days — and, while he's not exactly sure when he will be fully recovered from a lingering hip injury, Nadal said he expects to return to action at some point and probably wrap up his career in 2024.

Speaking at a news con-



Spain's Rafael Nadal lifts the trophy after winning the final match against Norway's Casper Ruud in three sets, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0, at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Associated Press

ference at his tennis academy in Manacor, Spain, the 36-year-old Nadal announced he will miss the clay-court French Open for the first time since mak-

ing his debut — and, naturally, claiming the trophy — there in 2005. He also spoke about his future in a sport that he and Big Three rivals Roger Federer, who

retired last year, and Novak Djokovic have ruled for decades.

"You can't keep demanding more and more from your body, because there comes a moment when your body raises a white flag," said Nadal, who sat alone on a stage, wearing jeans and a white polo shirt, as his session with the media was carried live in Spain by the state broadcaster's 24-hour sports network. "Even though your head wants to keep going, your body says this is as far it goes."

He did not offer a date for his return to the tennis tour, but said it is likely to take months.

"You never know how things will turn out," said Nadal, who answered questions in

English, Spanish and the local Mallorcan dialect, "but my intention is that next year will be my last year."

One thing he made clear: He does not want to bow out like this, holding a microphone in his left hand instead of a racket. Nadal has been the ultimate competitor, playing every point as if it might be his last, as if the outcome might depend on each and every swing.

That hard-charging style has been at the heart of his brilliance on the court — and also perhaps contributed to a series of injuries over the years.

The Spaniard hasn't competed anywhere since he lost to Mackie McDonald in the second round of the Australian Open on Jan. 18, when his movement clearly was restricted by a bothersome left hip flexor. That was Nadal's earliest Grand Slam exit since 2016.

An MRI exam the next day revealed the extent of the injury, and his manager said at the time that Nadal was expected to need up to two months to fully recover. He initially aimed to enter the Monte Carlo Masters in March on his beloved red clay, but he wasn't able to play there, then subsequently sat out tournament after tournament, decreasing the likelihood that he would be ready for the French Open. It is one thing for Nadal to lose more frequently, and in earlier rounds, than he usually has over the course of his illustrious career — one in which his 22 major titles are tied with Djokovic for the most by a man (Federer won 20), and includes 92 trophies in all, along with more than 1,000 tour-level match wins.

It is another thing entirely for Nadal to be missing from Roland Garros, where he has appeared 18 times in a row and is 112-3 over his career. He lifted the trophy in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022, when he became the oldest champion in tournament history. □



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